



January 25, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

We're beginning week three of the 8-week 2010 legislative session, and **more and more bills are receiving hearings and coming to the floor for a vote**. Below, I've outlined a few of the more important bills on which we focused last week.

Also, over the years I've made a point to let you know about the issues on which I'm working, rather than sending you generic updates on the overall events of session. You won't see me hiding behind blanket statements like, "the Legislature is doing this, that or the other thing." I hope you appreciate my efforts to convey to you how I feel specifically about particular issues as your state Senator.

Why the furlough proposal is a bad idea

A constituent asked me why I voted against the proposed "furlough" bill on Friday. That bill is [Senate Bill 6503](#), which would require state agencies to save \$69 million through mandatory, predetermined furlough days between now and July 2011.

State employees have indicated that they would be willing to take pay reductions, provided they are able to negotiate the manner in which costs are saved, rather than having it mandated by the Legislature. I believe it is the function of unions to negotiate hours, wages and working conditions, and this certainly falls into that category. That is why I voted against these bills.

Senate Republicans offered several amendments giving the majority party a chance to do the right thing. One would have made the pay increase freeze apply to all state employees, not just the non-represented employees. Another would have required an agency's "compensation reduction plan" to include savings that carried forward into the 2011-13 biennium instead of just balancing their budget for the remainder of the current biennium.

These amendments failed, the bills passed and will now go to the House of Representatives for consideration.

The death of the death penalty?

The Senate Judiciary Committee Friday also heard testimony on Senate Bill 5476, which would abolish the death penalty in Washington. I was quoted as saying that I believe it is not what murder victims would want. Gary Ridgeway brutally murdered and defiled 48 women and dumped their bodies around the Green River. Maurice Clemmons assassinated four unsuspecting police officers in

my district, and several other law enforcement officers have been recently murdered. **Our community would not stand to see the death penalty for these murderers abolished.**



The death penalty is really only given to criminals who commit aggravated first-degree murder, and I don't believe taking that tool out of the prosecutors toolbox would serve the best interests of the people of the State of Washington.

Zamora: The million-dollar man

Last week, I shed light on some surprising facts about mentally ill criminals at Western State Hospital, such as only 13 percent come from Pierce County, but 41 percent are released into Pierce County.

Now I've learned that Isaac Zamora, who pleaded guilty to four murders and pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to two others – all committed on Sept. 6, 2008 – has been walled off inside the most secure wing of the hospital, requiring other patients to be moved, and has two around-the-clock guards from the Department of Corrections. Figuring the annual cost to taxpayers of two DOC officers and a Department of Social and Health Services employee at three eight-hour shifts per 24-hour period, plus the standard per-patient cost of \$180,000 each year, **I've dubbed Zamora the "million-dollar man."**

This case clearly illustrates why we need "[guilty and mentally ill](#)." DSHS is going through the process with the Skagit County Superior Court to have Zamora moved to DOC. In the meantime, DSHS believes the situation is untenable and extreme steps are warranted.

My "guilty and mentally ill" bill, [Senate Bill 6310](#), would give a defendant the same sentence that any other defendant convicted of the same crime would receive, only the individual would be committed to a secure mental health facility for a limited period – 90 days, in contrast to the indefinite period Zamora could be at Western State – before being transferred to DOC to complete his or her sentence in prison.

The governor supports this idea; her bill differs in that the offender is sent directly to prison for stabilization. I think it is critical that we pass something either way this session.



“Assault weapons” ban

Also tomorrow in the Senate Judiciary Committee, we will hear public testimony on [Senate Bill 6396](#), which would ban the sale of so-called “assault weapons” in Washington. This bill defines “assault weapon” as any semiautomatic pistol or semiautomatic or pump-action rifle or shotgun that is capable of accepting a detachable magazine with a capacity of more than ten rounds of ammunition. Many target shooting and home defense firearms would fall under that description. **This is a direct attack on your constitutionally protected Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, and I will not support it.**

The status of my bills

[SB 6310](#) - Guilty and Mentally Ill

HEARD IN THE SENATE HUMAN SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE JANUARY 15. Allows a defendant who offers a timely defense of insanity to be found guilty and mentally ill at trial under certain circumstances.

[SJR 8218](#) - Constitutional Amendment Restricting Bail

HEARD IN THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE JANUARY 19. Amends the state Constitution so that offenses that may result in a mandatory life sentence upon conviction are not bailable.

[SB 6318](#) - Hospitals Reporting Violent Injuries

HEARD IN THE SENATE HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE JANUARY 20. Requires hospitals to report patients who have experienced gunshot wounds to a local law enforcement authority as soon as possible.

SB 6309 - Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity Inheritance

WILL BE HEARD IN THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27. Prohibits a person found not guilty by reason of insanity in a murder case from benefiting by their action.

SB 6308 - Computer Access at SCC

WILL BE HEARD IN THE SENATE HUMAN SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE THURSDAY, JANUARY 28. Prohibits any person committed or detained at the SCC from accessing a personal computer unless the resident's treatment plan states that such access is necessary.

SB 6316 - Coordination Between Local Law Enforcement and DOC

WILL BE HEARD IN THE SENATE HUMAN SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE THURSDAY, JANUARY 28. Requires notification of DOC when an inmate, housed in any city or county jail and under supervision by the department, escapes or is released, provides local law enforcement real-time access to the statewide corrections database, and allows local law enforcement to detain offenders in violation of their conditions of release with or without an arrest warrant having been issued.

SJR 8208 - Conflicting Residency Requirements

REINTRODUCED FROM LAST SESSION – NOW IN THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE AWAITING A FLOOR VOTE. Would amend the state Constitution to repeal a conflicting residency requirement for voting in a presidential election.

SB 6188 - Ten Percent Bail Bond Requirement

WILL LIKELY BE ROLLED INTO A WORK STUDY OF THE ENTIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, INCLUDING DOC, DSHS, THE JUDICIARY, LOCAL JAILS AND BAIL BOND BUSINESSES. Establishes a minimum bond fee of ten percent for crimes against persons, which include felony DUI, stalking, violation of a domestic violence no contact order, etc.

Yet to receive a hearing:

[SB 6317](#) - Assault of Police Officer

[SB 6311](#) - Body Armor Sentencing Enhancement

[SB 6313](#) - Bench Warrants Executed by Bail Bond Agents

[SB 5929](#) - Correctional Employees Firearms

[SB 6314](#) - Minimum Security Facilities

[SB 6315](#) - Home Detention Requirements for Community Custody Violations

[SB 6200](#) - Eminent Domain for Economic Development

[SB 6319](#) - Veteran's Preference

[SB 6583](#) - Audits and Investigations

[SB 6628](#) - No Public Art for Offenders

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by my Olympia office. I look forward to your comments and suggestions because they help me better represent you. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me

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Sincerely,



Mike Carrell

28th District State Senator

